

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAGHDA 01698 150838Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 /062 W
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FM USINT BAGHDAD
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INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 1698

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, UNGA, RQ, IZ
SUBJECT: UN CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO

REF: A. STATE 188247 B. STATE 203994

1. THE TEXT OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S PROCLAMATION ON PUERTO RICO WAS PRESENTED TO DR. ISMAT KETTANEH, CHIEF OF MFA'S DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND CONFERENCES ON AUGUST 5. HIS ATTENTION WAS DRAWN TO THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROCLAMATION IN TERMS OF THE U.S. COMMITMENT TO SELF-DETERMINATION.

2. THE SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS IN REF A WERE UTILIZED IN EXPLAINING THE SITUATION TO KETTANEH, WHO IS QUITE FAMILIAR WITH THE BACKGROUND.(HE POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS IRAQ THAT HAD INITIALLY PROPOSED THE INCLUSION OF PUERTO RICO ON THE LIST OF NON-SELF GOVERNING TERRITORIES AND HAD OPPOSED ITS REMOVAL.) I STRESSED THE DESIRE OF THE U.S. TO PERMIT THE QUESTION TO BE SETTLED BY THE VOTERS THEMSELVES, WITHOUT INJECTING THE UN MACHINERY, AND ASKED THAT THE GOI SUPPORT OUR EFFORTS TO AVOID APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION IN THE COMMITTEE.

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3. KETTANEH REPLIED THAT THE IRAQI POSITION ON THE ISSUE WAS RATHER WELL-KNOWN AND WAS UNLIKELY TO CHANGE. HE WAS NOT AT ALL HOPEFUL THAT THERE WOULD BE SUPPORT FOR THE U.S. PROPOSAL.

4. I CALLED ON KETTANEH AGAIN ON AUGUST 14, TO DETERMINE IF THERE HAD BEEN ANY CHANGE AS THE RESULT OF THE EARLIER

DEMARCHE. HE BROUGHT UP THE POSSIBLY ALTERED VOTING PATTERN AS THE RESULT OF CHANGED ATTITUDES IN AFGHANISTAN AND ETHIOPIA AND THE PROBLEMS THIS MIGHT CAUSE FOR THE U.A.S. POSITION, BUT COULD NOT OFFER ANY HOPE THAT IRAQ WOULD SUPPORT IT. THE ISSUE IS LARGELY IDEALOGICAL, HE POINTED OUT, BUT POLITICAL FACTORS ALSO PLAY A ROLE.

5. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, KETTANEH SUGGESTED THAT THE U.S. MIGHT BE ABLE TO PICK UP A VOTE OR TWO (NOT INCLUDING IRAQ'S) IF IT EXPRESSED A WILLINGNESS TO LET THE UN SEND A TEAM TO OBSERVE THE REFERENDUM. HE FELT THAT SINCE THE OPTIONS INCLUDED INDEPENDENCE, THE U.S. COULD DO THIS WITHOUT ABANDONING ITS POSITION THAT THE STATUS OF PUERTO RICO IS AN INTERNAL MATTER. I DID NOT COMMENT ON HIS SUGGESTION.
PECK

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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